

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 4910 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 17 JUN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNCTAD EMIN

SUBJ: UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETING ON MANGANESE JUNE 13-18, 1977

1. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS ON MANGANESE

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LARGELY INCONCLUSIVE WITH SOLE RECOMMENDATION BEING THAT AD
HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE SHOULD CONSIDER NEED FOR
FUTURE MEETINGS. TEXT OF AGREED CONCLUSIONS AS FOLLOWS:
"IN VIEW OF THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE GENERAL STATEMENTS
CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS BY PRO-
DUCERS OF MANGANESE, IT IS NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY FURTHER
THOSE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE PRODUCTION AND

MARKETING OF MANGANESE AS A PRELIMINARY STEP TO A FUTURE MEETING OF BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS.

THE PREPARATORY MEETING THEREFORE RECOMMENDS TO THE AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE THAT IT CONSIDER THE NEED FOR FUTURE MEETINGS."

2. STATEMENTS MADE BY BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS CITED LACK OF REAL IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS IN MANGANESE ORE MARKETS. ON SIDE OF PRODUCERS THIS REFLECTED IN PART MODERATING INFLUENCES OF SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA, BOTH OF WHICH COUNTRIES EXPRESSED PRIVATELY TO USDEL THAT THEY SAW NO NEED FOR MANGANESE TO BE ON THE IPC LIST AT ALL, AND IN PART DUE TO NON-EXPERT LEVEL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF LDC PRODUCERS.

3. U.S. STATEMENT WAS WELL ACCEPTED BY PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. STATEMENT WAS SUMMARIZED IN FINAL REPORT AS: "THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ANOTHER CONSUMING COUNTRY (US) SAID THAT THE FIRST OBJECTIVE AMONG THE TASKS BEFORE THE MEETING WAS TO IDENTIFY THE PARTICULAR FEATURES OF THE WORLD MARKET FOR MANGANESE. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION WAS LACKING ON TOPICS SUCH AS: PRODUCTION OF, AND TRADE IN MANGANESE BY GRADE AND QUALITY, TRANSPORTATION COSTS, STOCKS, PRICES AND EARNINGS. HE SUGGESTED THE NEED FOR FURTHER RIGOROUS WORK TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPLEMENT THE EXISTING INFORMATION SO AS TO IDENTIFY AND CLARIFY PERCEIVED PROBLEMS AND THAT SUCH A PROGRAM OF WORK MIGHT ENTAIL FURTHER MEETINGS OF AN EXPERT NATURE. HE ALSO STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED IT PREMATURE TO REACH DECISIONS ON ANY INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON MANGANESE."

4. AMONG CONSUMERS, FRENCH, IN CONTRAST TO REST OF EC, TOOK A PARTICULARLY PRO-PRODUCER LINE EXPRESSING FULL FRENCH SUPPORT FOR 93(IV). FRENCH REITERATED THEIR VIEW THAT IF ANY INTERNATIONAL ACTION WERE TO BE TAKEN, BOTH MANGANESE ORES AND ALLOYS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH EQUALLY. FRENCH AND SOME OTHER ALLOY PRODUCERS POINTED TO WORLDWIDE OVERCAPACITY AND PRICE DIFFERENTIAL IN FERRO-MANGANESE, WHICH REPORTEDLY WAS SUBJECT OF HEATED DISCUSSION IN PRODUCER CAUCUS.

5. GABONESE AMBASSADOR, WHO FIRST APPEARED DURING THE CLOSING MINUTES OF THE VERY LAST SESSION, MADE A STATEMENT URGING CONSIDERATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM PRICES AND NATIONALLY COORDINATED STOCKPILES. STATEMENT WAS POORLY RECEIVED, PARTICULARLY BY

CHAIRMAN CUDJOE (GHANA). HALF-HEARTED ATTEMPTS BY LATIN AMERICAN LDC'S, INCLUDING PERU (CHAIRMAN POINTEDLY REFERRED TO PERU AS AN "INSIGNIFICANT PRODUCER") TO RALLY PRODUCERS AROUND FURTHER ACTION BASED ON 93(IV) NEVER GOT OFF THE GROUND.

6. COMMENT: INFORMAL INDICATIONS FROM SECRETARIAT STAFF SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THEY WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE MANGANESE AND POSSIBLY OTHER OF NON-CORE COMMODITIES CONSIGNED TO LIMBO. RE-RUN OF MINIMAL INTEREST IN AN INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENT AMONG THE MINERALS SUCH AS DISINTEREST DISPLAYED IN THIS MANGANESE PREPARATORY MAY ALSO BE THE SCENARIO OF THE UPCOMING UNCTAD IRON ORE, BAUXITE, AND POSSIBLY PHOSPHATE MEETINGS. PRODUCERS ORIGINALLY SOUGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LANGUAGE IN CONCLUSIONS REQUESTING AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CALL FOR UNCTAD-SPONSORED PRODUCER MEETING SUPPORTED BY FURTHER SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTATION. SOME PRODUCERS FELT VERY STRONGLY THEY COULD NOT HOLD ANOTHER PRODUCER-CONSUMER MEETING WITHOUT FIRST ORGANIZING THEMSELVES AND FELT THIS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH SECRETARIAT FACILITIES AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT. WHILE CONSUMERS SUCCEEDED IN DROPPING SUCH SPECIFIC REFERENCES, THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY AD HOC COMMITTEE WILL BE FACED WITH THE QUESTION OF THE SECRETARIAT'S ROLE IN MEETINGS OF ONLY PRODUCERS OR CONSUMERS. SORENSON UNQTE VANCE

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